



No. 74

September 16, 2004

S. 2666/H.R. 4755 – Legislative Branch Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2005

Calendar No. 635

On July 15, 2004, the Committee on Appropriations reported S. 2666 by a vote of 29-0; S. Rept. 108-307.

Noteworthy

- Under a unanimous consent agreement reached on September 15, the Senate will proceed to consideration of S. 2666 on Tuesday, September 21 (at a time to be determined), with only 4 amendments in order – all managers' amendments – and all will be agreed to. Following one hour of debate, the Senate bill will be returned to the Calendar, and the text of the Senate bill will be inserted into H.R. 4755, the House-passed bill. Funding related to House operations will be retained. The Senate will then immediately proceed to a vote on H.R. 4755.
- S. 2666 provides \$2.46 billion in new discretionary authority for the legislative branch, which is nearly \$332 million below the budget request, but \$8 million above the FY04 enacted level; this is an increase of less than one percent.
- Pursuant to traditional Congressional protocol, the Senate bill does not include House funding. The House-passed bill, H.R. 4755, provides \$1.04 billion for House operations. H.R. 4755 passed the House July 12 by a vote of 327-43.
- S. 2666 provides \$725 million for Senate operations, compared to \$712 million in FY04.
- S. 2666 provides \$470 million for the Government Accountability Office (GAO, formerly named the General Accounting Office), up by \$12.4 million from FY04.
- The bill provides \$226.9 million for the U.S. Capitol Police, which is \$7 million above the FY04 enacted level. Additionally, the committee, in report language, says it will make available another \$12.8 million from prior-year funds, bringing the total available funds to nearly \$240 million.

Bill Provisions

Title I – Legislative Branch Appropriations, Senate

- **Senate Operation:** Provides \$725 million for the Senate’s operations, which is \$34.6 million below the request, but \$12.6 million above the FY04 enacted level. Included is \$326 million for Senators’ Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts, an increase of \$20 million from FY04. The “Inquiries and Investigations” account, which provides funding for most of the Senate committees, was provided \$110 million, a 7-percent decrease over the FY04 enacted level.
- **Capitol Police:** Provides \$226.9 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$64.7 million below the request, but \$7.1 million above the FY04 enacted level. The bill also provides authority to use an additional \$12.8 million from prior-year funds to meet personnel requirements.
- **Congressional Budget Office:** Provides \$34.8 million for the Congressional Budget Office, which is \$665,000 below the request, but \$1.2 million above the FY04 enacted level.
- **Architect of the Capitol:** Provides \$308 million for the Architect of the Capitol (not including House office buildings, which are included in the House bill), which is \$171.2 million below the request, and \$32.5 million below the FY04 enacted level. The bill provides \$7.6 million for maintenance and start-up activities for the Capitol Visitor Center. With respect to construction costs, the report notes: “The Committee expects that completion of the Capitol Visitor Center project in a timely way within current funds will be the highest priority for the Architect of the Capitol.”
- **Library of Congress:** Provides \$544 million for the Library of Congress, which is \$17.7 million below the request, but \$21.1 million above the FY04 enacted level. This total includes \$96.7 million for the Congressional Research Service, an increase of \$5.5 million from FY04.
- **Government Printing Office:** Provides \$120.7 million for the Government Printing Office, which is \$14 million below the FY04 enacted level.
- **Government Accountability Office:** Provides \$470 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is \$10.5 million below the request, but \$12.4 million above the FY04 enacted level.
- **Open World Leadership Center:** Provides \$13.5 million for the Open World Leadership Center, which is \$1.5 million below the request, but slightly above the FY04 enacted level.

Title II – General Provisions

- Included are several routine general provisions carried annually in the bill.

Administration Position

The Administration does not issue Statements of Administration Policy for Legislative Branch Appropriations bills.

Cost

The Committee, in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office, estimates the bill provides \$2.465 billion in discretionary budget authority and \$113 million in mandatory spending.

S. 2666 would result in the following outlays:

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|---------|-----------------|
| FY 2005 | \$1.985 billion |
| FY 2006 | \$310 million |
| FY 2007 | \$95 million |
| FY 2008 | \$23 million |
| FY 2009 | \$14 million |

Possible Amendments

The unanimous consent agreement limits amendments to four Managers' Amendments, which have been agreed to by both sides. At press time, the contents of those amendments were not available. S. 2666 was passed out of committee without amendment.